

# *Broward County Council of Professional Fire Fighters*

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October 23, 2006

Chairman Kevin Martin  
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Commissioner Robert McDowell  
Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein

Federal Communications Commission  
The Portals  
445 12th Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Re: WC Docket No. 06-74

Dear FCC Commissioners:

I am writing to urge your approval of the AT&T-BellSouth merger. As President of Broward County Council of Professional Fire Fighters; I, Joe Benavides, have been carefully following the merger's progress and particularly the developments of the past few days. It is clear to me that this merger will serve the public interest and greatly benefit customers of the combined company.

The commitments that AT&T recently announced for much greater broadband affordability and availability are especially beneficial to my organization. Access to broadband is of great concern to my membership. Approval of the merger will address this critical need by offering truly *affordable* and *ubiquitous* service.

I understand that AT&T has proposed to the Commission a commitment to provide its dial access customers a free modem for upgrading to DSL service. I also understand the company has offered to make available a \$10 monthly residential broadband offering as well as deliver broadband capability to *all* residential units in its combined territory, including lower-income and rural areas. These commitments will help drive high-speed broadband usage and help close the digital divide between rich and poor, urban and rural.

Broward County Council of Professional Fire Fighters, represents approximately 2600 members in 31 municipalities within the boundaries of Broward County, would like to respectfully request the Commission approve the merger of AT&T and BellSouth so that consumers can benefit as soon as possible from the broadband provisions this merger offers.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Joe Benavides  
President, Broward County Council of Professional Fire Fighters

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